

'Pupil' fails in scariness quotient

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accept without a more in-depth account of his past. The actual atrocities he committed are only represented through brief and bizarre visions that aren't as unsettling as they could be.

Director Bryan Singer failed to accommodate for audiences caloused by previous Holocaust films such as "Schindler's List," which hardly skimmed on the gritty imagery. In fact, it was the grim confrontation with the genocidal horrors of the Nazi regime that won the film such applause - and a host of Academy Awards.

The same atrocious detail was desperately needed to flesh out Dussander as an aged embodiment of fascist terror; instead he seems more like the elderly spook from "Pollyanna."

The same vagueness that plagues

McKellen's character also makes Renfro's performance weak and confusing. As the film progresses, Bowden transforms from the kid next door into an emotionally and psychologically unstable wreck. But the foundation for this transformation is never laid down, so it's impossible to understand why Bowden ends up the way he does.

Overall, the film just isn't as scary as the commercial suggests, and the plot is lost under a number of vague and cluttering characters. While it does maintain a high level of suspense, the end result just isn't very powerful.

In the end, "Apt Pupil" addresses one of the most horrific events in the history of mankind but ends up as a confusing montage of events without really exploring the core issue. For a more frightening account of the Holocaust, one should consult the History Channel.

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Bangladesh painter opens exhibit at Haydon Gallery

Born in Bangladesh, educated in Japan and fascinated by America, painter/printer Mahmudal Haque has long been the focus of international attention for his artistic endeavors.

Currently a professor at the Institute of Fine Art, Dhaka University in Bangladesh, Haque has performed as an artist-in-residence for the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Haque will display a collection of his work today at Haydon Gallery, 335 N. 8th St., where a reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m.

A prolific painter working in a colorful and lyrical abstract style, Haque pulls inspiration from traditional and modern cultures.

The exhibit will showcase a variety of Haque's work, including his highly textured prints, drawing on images of rock formations and stone monuments.

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